

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Index No.: \_\_\_\_\_/19

-----X  
STEPHEN MORAN,Plaintiffs designate  
ONONDAGA COUNTY  
as place of trial.Plaintiffs,  
-against -The basis of venue is  
Defendant's principal  
place of businessROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST.  
JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
SYRACUSE, N.Y., and CAMP NAZARETH,SUMMONSPlaintiff resides at 3  
Winmar Crescent, New  
Harford, NY 13413Defendants.  
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To the above-named Defendants:

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case your failure to appear or answer, judgement will be taken for the relief demanded herein.

**A COPY OF THIS SUMMONS WAS FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT, ONONDAGA COUNTY ON \_\_\_\_\_ IN COMPLIANCE WITH CPLR §§305(a) AND 306(a).**

Dated: New York, New York  
August 14, 2019

MERSON LAW, PLLC

By: Jordan K. Merson  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
150 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10155  
(212) 603-9100

TO:

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**

240 E Onondaga St,  
Syracuse, NY 13202

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

215 N. state street,  
Syracuse, NY 13203

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE N.Y.**

1654 W Onondaga St,  
Syracuse, NY 13204

**CAMP NAZARETH**

112 Long Lake Rd.  
Woodgate, New York 13494

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Index No.: \_\_\_\_\_/19

-----X  
STEPHEN MORAN,

Plaintiffs,

-against -

**VERIFIED  
COMPLAINT**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST.  
JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
SYRACUSE, N.Y., and CAMP NAZARETH,

Defendants.

-----X  
Plaintiff(s), above named, complaining of the Defendants, by **MERSON LAW,**  
**PLLC.**, respectfully allege(s):**NATURE OF THE CLAIM**

1. This is a case of a Plaintiff STEPHEN MORAN who was sexually abused as a child by Father Thomas Neary ("Neary") at and of St. John the Evangelist ("St. John") and Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse ("Diocese") and another Priest at and of Camp Nazareth ("Camp"), Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y. ("Catholic Charities") and the Diocese.
2. Neary was a Priest at St. John the Evangelist Church in New Hartford, New York which was part of the Diocese. Father Neary was known among the community and the children as a sexual predator.
3. The other Priest was a Priest, agent, servant and/or employee of Camp Nazareth in Woodgate, New York which was part of the Diocese and operated under the exclusive direction and control of the Diocese and Catholic Charities.

4. Despite the Diocese and St. John's knowledge that Neary sexually abused children and/or had the propensity to sexually abuse children, the Diocese and St. John allowed Neary unfettered access to children.
5. Despite the Diocese, Catholic Charities and Camp's knowledge that the other Priest sexually abused children and/or had the propensity to sexually abuse children, the Diocese, Catholic Charities and Camp allowed that Priest unfettered access to children.
6. Beginning in approximately 1954 and continuing until about 1960, while under the scope of employment with the Diocese and while acting on behalf of the Diocese, Thomas Neary would forcefully kiss, fondle, rub his erect penis, rape and otherwise sexually abuse plaintiff who was approximately ten years old.
7. Plaintiff was sexually abused by Father Neary countless times over approximately four years.
8. Plaintiff was additionally abused by a Priest when he attended Camp Nazareth. The Priest forced Plaintiff to shower with him to "get him nice and clean". The Priest would rub soap over Plaintiff's naked body and dry Plaintiff off after the shower.
9. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit to recover for the emotional and physical suffering he incurred because of the negligence of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, St. John the Evangelist, Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y. and Camp Nazareth and to make sure no other child is forced to suffer the abuse and physical and mental trauma he felt and continues to feel.

**PARTIES**



10. At all times herein mentioned Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** was a not for profit corporation incorporated in the State of New York and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.
11. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** was located at 240 E. Onondaga Street, Syracuse, New York 13202.
12. At all times herein mentioned, Neary was a Priest operating under the direction and control of Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**, and its agents, servants and/or employees.
13. At all times herein mentioned, Neary was an agent, servant and/or employee of Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**.
14. At all times herein mentioned, the Priest was an agent, servant and/or employee of Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**.
15. At all times herein mentioned Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** was a not for profit corporation incorporated in the State of New York and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.
16. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** was located at 66 Oxford Road, New Hartford, New York 13413.
17. At all times herein mentioned, Neary was a Priest operating under the direction and control of Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**, and its agents, servants and/or employees.
18. At all times herein mentioned, Neary was an agent, servant and/or employee of Defendant **ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST**.
19. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** operated and/or controlled Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**.

20. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** and **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** were agents, servants, employees and/or alter egos of each other.
21. At all times herein mentioned Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** was a not for profit corporation incorporated in the State of New York and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.
22. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** was located at 1408 Genessee Street, Utica, New York 13502.
23. At all times herein mentioned, the Priest was a Priest operating under the direction and control of Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.**, and its agents, servants and/or employees.
24. At all times herein mentioned, the Priest was an agent, servant and/or employee of Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.**
25. At all times herein mentioned Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** was a not for profit corporation incorporated in the State of New York and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.
26. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** was located at 112 Long Lake Road, Woodgate, New York 13494.
27. At all times herein mentioned, the Priest was a Priest operating under the direction and control of Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH**, and its agents, servants and/or employees.

28. At all times herein mentioned, the Priest was an agent, servant and/or employee of Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH**.
29. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** operated and controlled Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.**
30. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** controlled and/or operated Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH**.
31. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.,** and **CAMP NAZARETH** were agents, servants, employees and/or alter egos of each other.

**FACTS OF THE CASE**

32. Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.,** and **CAMP NAZARETH's** negligence and recklessness caused, allowed, encouraged and/or permitted Neary and the other Priest have access to children, without proper supervision on Defendants' premises, despite its knowledge that Neary and/or the other Priest sexually abused children and/or had the propensity to do so, and therefore are responsible for the injuries that Plaintiff incurred because but for Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.,** and **CAMP NAZARETH's** negligence,

Plaintiff would not have suffered the mental and physical anguish inflicted by Father Neary or the other Priest. Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y., and CAMP NAZARETH's** gross negligence, reckless, wanton, and/or willful conduct warrants punitive liability.

33. Neary sexually assaulted Plaintiff and many other young male patrons of at defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** Church in New Hartford, New York. Nonetheless defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** and defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** failed to remove Neary from his position as a Priest or to take any steps to keep the dangerous predator away from children. In fact, the Diocese continued to allow, encourage and/or permit Neary to have unfettered access to children.
34. Neary manipulated Plaintiff into trusting him with discussions of Mr. Moran someday becoming a Priest.
35. Neary would take Plaintiff to Neary's parents' house in Solvay, New York and force Mr. Moran to sleep with him wearing only his underwear so that Neary could rub his erect penis on Mr. Moran.
36. Neary would force Plaintiff to go on car rides with him and park in secluded locations where Neary would forcefully kiss Plaintiff on the lips.
37. Neary would forcefully fondle Plaintiff and force him to have oral sex with him and otherwise rape and sodomize him.
38. Plaintiff was sexually abused by Father Neary numerous times over approximately four years. The abuse occurred at Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** Church, at Neary's parents' house, in Neary's car and other places.



39. As a result of the actions of Father Neary, Plaintiff felt and continues to feel ashamed, embarrassed and humiliated. Plaintiff had endured and continues to suffer severe emotional distress due to Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** and **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST's** negligence.
40. The other Priest sexually assaulted Plaintiff and many other young male patrons of at Camp Nazareth. Nonetheless Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** and **CAMP NAZARETH** failed to remove the Priest from his position as a Priest or to take any steps to keep the dangerous predator away from children. In fact, the Diocese continued to allow, encourage and/or permit the Priest to have unfettered access to children.
41. The Priest, while at Camp would force Plaintiff to shower with him. The Priest would rub Plaintiff's naked body with soap, including his penis, and dry him off while the Priest was naked.
42. As a result of the actions of the Priest, Plaintiff felt and continues to feel ashamed, embarrassed, and humiliated. Plaintiff had endured and continues to suffer severe emotional distress due to the Diocese, Catholic Charities and Camp's negligence.
43. As such, Plaintiff suffered catastrophic and lifelong injuries as a result of Defendants **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.,** and **CAMP NAZARETH's** negligence in failing to protect the children of its parishes in locis parentis and of its community safe from Neary and the other Priest, despite the Diocese, St. John's, Catholic Charities and Camp having

knowledge that Neary and the other Priest sexually abused children and/or had the propensity to sexually abuse children, and/or allowing Neary and/or the other Priest to continue to have his role and position of authority and power, and the Diocese failed to adequately supervise Neary and the other Priest.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE**

**AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**

44. Plaintiff repeats, reiterate and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 43., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
45. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** owed a duty of care to keep the children of its parishes safe from sexual abuse by its clergymen under its supervision and control, including on company premises, that ultimately befell the Plaintiff, including but not limited to in locis parentis, and they had a duty to properly supervise Neary and the other priest.
46. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees breached the above-stated duty in a negligent, reckless, willful and wanton manner, and caused Plaintiff to be sexually assaulted repeatedly.
47. As a result of the negligence of Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees, Plaintiff was caused serious personal injuries, emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.

48. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
49. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
50. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
51. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT HIRING,**

**RETENTION AND SUPERVISION AGAINST ROMAN**

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**

52. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 51., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
53. Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**, had a duty to supervise and prevent known risks of harm to patrons of its parishes by its clergymen.
54. Defendant was negligent in hiring, retaining and supervising their personnel, such as Father Neary and the other Priest, who were careless, unskillful, negligent, reckless and acted in a willful and wanton manner in not possessing the requisite knowledge and skill of Priests and church officials who should have properly been supervising the Priests to ensure the safety of the children of the parishes.
55. Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** knew or should have known that Father Neary and/or the other Priest sexually abused and/or had the propensity

to sexually abuse children and did nothing to stop it, and failed to properly supervise Neary and the other Priest.

56. As a result of such negligent hiring, supervising and retention, Plaintiff was caused to suffer serious personal injuries, emotional distress, conscious pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.
57. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
58. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
59. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
60. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT INFLECTION OF  
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE**

61. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 60., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.
62. Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** and their agents, servants and/or employees, knew or reasonably should have known that the failure to properly advise, supervise and hire Father Neary and/or the other Priest, the Priests who sexually abused Plaintiff, would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.



63. Defendant **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE** and their agents, servants and/or employees knew or reasonably should have known that the sexual abuse and other improper conduct would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.
64. Defendant has the power, ability, authority and duty to intervene with and/or stop the improper conduct that resulted in Plaintiff being sexually abused by Father Neary and the other Priest.
65. Despite said knowledge, power and duty, Defendant negligently failed to act so as to stop, prevent, and prohibit the improper conduct that resulted Father Neary and the other Priest sexually abusing Plaintiff.
66. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
67. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
68. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
69. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE**

**AGAINST ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

70. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 69., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.



71. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** owed a duty of care to keep the children and students of its parishes safe from sexual abuse by its clergymen under its supervision and control that ultimately befell the Plaintiff, including but not limited to in locis parentis, and they had a duty to properly supervise Neary and the other Priest.
72. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees breached the above-stated duty in a negligent, reckless, willful and wanton manner, and caused Plaintiff to be sexually assaulted repeatedly.
73. As a result of the negligence of Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees, Plaintiff was caused serious personal injuries, emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.
74. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
75. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
76. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
77. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT HIRING,  
RETENTION AND SUPERVISION AGAINST ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

78. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 77., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
79. Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**, had a duty to supervise and prevent known risks of harm to patrons of its parishes by its clergymen.
80. Defendant was negligent in hiring, retaining and supervising their personnel, such as Father Neary, who were careless, unskillful, negligent, reckless and acted in a willful and wanton manner in not possessing the requisite knowledge and skill of Priests and church officials who should have properly been supervising the Priests to ensure the safety of the children of the parishes.
81. Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** knew or should have known that Father Neary sexually abused and/or had the propensity to sexually abuse children and did nothing to stop it, and failed to properly supervise Neary.
82. As a result of such negligent hiring, supervising and retention, Plaintiff was caused to suffer serious personal injuries, emotional distress, conscious pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.
83. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
84. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
85. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

86. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR THE SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF  
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS AGAINST ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

87. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 86., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.
88. Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** and their agents, servants and/or employees, knew or reasonably should have known that the failure to properly advise, supervise and hire Father Neary, the Priest who sexually abused Plaintiff, would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.
89. Defendant **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST** and their agents, servants and/or employees knew or reasonably should have known that the sexual abuse and other improper conduct would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.
90. Defendant has the power, ability, authority and duty to intervene with and/or stop the improper conduct that resulted in Plaintiff being sexually abused by Father Neary.
91. Despite said knowledge, power and duty, Defendant negligently failed to act so as to stop, prevent, and prohibit the improper conduct that resulted Father Neary sexually abusing Plaintiff.
92. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
93. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.

94. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
95. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE**  
**AGAINST CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF**  
**SYRACUSE, N.Y.**

96. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 95., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
97. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** owed a duty of care to keep the children of its parishes safe from sexual abuse by its clergymen under its supervision and control that ultimately befell the Plaintiff, including but not limited to in locis parentis.
98. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees breached the above-stated duty in a negligent, reckless, willful and wanton manner, and caused Plaintiff to be sexually assaulted repeatedly.
99. As a result of the negligence of Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees, plaintiff was caused serious personal injuries, emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.



100. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
101. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
102. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
103. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR A EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT HIRING,  
RETENTION AND SUPERVISION AGAINST CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.**

104. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 103., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
105. Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.**, had a duty to supervise and prevent known risks of harm to patrons of its parishes by its clergymen.
106. Defendant was negligent in hiring, retaining and supervising their personnel, such as the Priest who abused plaintiff, who were careless, unskillful, negligent, reckless and acted in a willful and wanton manner in not possessing the requisite knowledge and skill of Priests and church officials who should have properly been supervising the Priests to ensure the safety of the children of the parishes.
107. Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** knew or should have known that the Priest who sexually abused



plaintiff sexually abused and/or had the propensity to sexually abuse children and did nothing to stop it.

108. As a result of such negligent hiring, supervising and retention, Plaintiff was caused to suffer serious personal injuries, emotional distress, conscious pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.
109. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
110. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
111. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
112. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR THE NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF**  
**EMOTIONAL DISTRESS AGAINST CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN**  
**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.**

113. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 112., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.
114. Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** and their agents, servants and/or employees, knew or reasonably should have known that the failure to properly advise, supervise and hire the Priest who

sexually abused plaintiff, would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.

115. Defendant **CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.** and their agents, servants and/or employees knew or reasonably should have known that the sexual abuse and other improper conduct would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.
116. Defendant has the power, ability, authority and duty to intervene with and/or stop the improper conduct that resulted in Plaintiff being sexually abused by the Priest who sexually abused plaintiff.
117. Despite said knowledge, power and duty, Defendant negligently failed to act so as to stop, prevent, and prohibit the improper conduct that resulted in the Priest sexually abusing Plaintiff.
118. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
119. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
120. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
121. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR A TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE**

**AGAINST CAMP NAZARETH**

122. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 121., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
123. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** owed a duty of care to keep the children of its parishes safe from sexual abuse by its clergymen under its supervision and control that ultimately befell the Plaintiff, including but not limited to in locis parentis.
124. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees breached the above-stated duty in a negligent, reckless, willful and wanton manner, and caused Plaintiff to be sexually assaulted repeatedly.
125. As a result of the negligence of Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** and/or its agents, servants and/or employees, plaintiff was caused serious personal injuries, emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.
126. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
127. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from Defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
128. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.
129. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT HIRING,  
RETENTION AND SUPERVISION AGAINST CAMP NAZARETH**



130. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 129., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
131. Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** had a duty to supervise and prevent known risks of harm to patrons of its parishes by its clergymen.
132. Defendant was negligent in hiring, retaining and supervising their personnel, such as the Priest who abused Plaintiff, who were careless, unskillful, negligent, reckless and acted in a willful and wanton manner in not possessing the requisite knowledge and skill of Priests and church officials who should have properly been supervising the Priests to ensure the safety of the children of the parishes.
133. Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** knew or should have known that the Priest who sexually abused Plaintiff sexually abused and/or had the propensity to sexually abuse children and did nothing to stop it.
134. As a result of such negligent hiring, supervising and retention, Plaintiff was caused to suffer serious personal injuries, emotional distress, conscious pain and suffering, mental anguish and/or physical manifestations thereof, and other losses, all of which have not as of yet been ascertained.
135. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
136. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.
137. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

138. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

**AS AND FOR THE TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT INFLICTION**

**OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS AGAINST CAMP NAZARETH**

139. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in those paragraphs of this Complaint marked and designated 1. through 138., inclusive, with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

140. Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** and their agents, servants and/or employees, knew or reasonably should have known that the failure to properly advise, supervise and hire the Priest who sexually abused Plaintiff, would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.

141. Defendant **CAMP NAZARETH** and their agents, servants and/or employees knew or reasonably should have known that the sexual abuse and other improper conduct would and did proximately result in physical and emotional distress to Plaintiff.

142. Defendant has the power, ability, authority and duty to intervene with and/or stop the improper conduct that resulted in Plaintiff being sexually abused by the Priest who sexually abused Plaintiff.

143. Despite said knowledge, power and duty, defendant negligently failed to act so as to stop, prevent, and prohibit the improper conduct that resulted in the Priest sexually abusing Plaintiff.

144. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages from defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.

145. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages from defendant in such sums as a jury would find fair, just and adequate.



146. The amount of damages sought exceeds the jurisdiction of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

147. This action falls within exceptions to Article 16 of the C.P.L.R.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgement against defendant in such sum as a jury would find fair, adequate and just.

Dated: New York, New York  
August 14, 2019

MERSON LAW, PLLC

By: 

Jordan K. Merson  
Sarah R Cantos  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
150 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10155  
(212) 603-9100

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ONONDAGAIndex No.:  
\_\_\_\_\_/19

STEPHEN MORAN,

*Plaintiff,*  
-against -**ATTORNEY  
VERIFICATION**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST.  
JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
SYRACUSE, and CAMP NAZARETH*Defendants.*-----X  
JORDAN K. MERSON, an attorney duly admitted to practice in the Courts of New York  
State, and a member of the firm MERSON LAW, PLLC., attorneys for the plaintiffs in the  
within action, hereby affirms under penalty of perjury:

That he has read the within complaint and knows the contents thereof, and that the same  
is true to his own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged upon  
information and belief, and that as to those matters he believes it to be true.

That the sources of his information and knowledge are investigations and records in the  
file.

That the reason this verification is made by affirmant and not by the plaintiff is that the  
plaintiff is not within the County where the attorney has his office.

Dated: New York, New York  
August 14, 2019

  
JORDAN K. MERSON

Index No.

Year 2019

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

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STEPHEN MORAN,

*Plaintiff(s),*

*- against -*

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, ST. JOHN  
THE EVANGELIST, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, N.Y., and  
CAMP NAZARETH,

*Defendant(s),*

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SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT

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Merson Law, PLLC.

*Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)*

*Office and Post Office Address, Telephone*  
150 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street 34<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, New York 10155  
(212) 603-9100

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To: All Parties

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